



Students make it a day 'on' for service on Monday

Celebrating Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy, UNO students volunteer time.

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VOLUME 08 | ISSUE 29

gateway

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA SINCE 1913

Mavs look to stay near top of conference standings

Taking on No. 10 Miami this weekend, UNO wants to stay in the top four in the CCHA.

SPORTS
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FRIDAY | JANUARY 23, 2009

Inauguration reinforces special connection local Kenyan has with U.S., Obama



President Barack Obama delivers his inaugural address at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday. (ALEX WONG/POOL/MCT)

Regents to examine Crossroads garage, affirmative action today

SCOTT STEWART
INTERIM NEWS EDITOR

The Crossroads Mall parking garage is back on the University of Nebraska Board of Regents' agenda, as the regents meet today at Varner Hall in Lincoln, Neb.

Crossroads continues to be the best option to provide off-site parking for UNO students, based on capacity, safety and convenience, according to the regents' agenda item.

The contract with Simson Property Group to lease the parking garage provoked some students' anger last February, when the lease rate went from \$20,000 annually to \$3,000 daily, catching university leaders by surprise. The hike resulted in a \$1 per credit hour student fee increase starting last fall.

The contract before the regents Friday renews that lease rate for the 2009-10 academic year, with a total price tag of \$474,000, according to the agenda item.

In other business Friday, the regents will consider resolution reiterating their commitment

to diversity in the student body and university workforce. The resolution also confirms the university's intent to comply with Initiative 424, the amendment made to the Nebraska Constitution prohibiting discrimination or preference on the basis of race, gender or national origin.

In the morning committee meetings, Speaker of the Legislature Sen. Mike Flood, NU Budget Director Chris Kabourek and NU Director of Governmental Relations Ron Withem will discuss legislative and budget matters with the regents.

The regents are also expected to approve the selection of DLR Group Inc. to provide design services for UNO's University Life Complex, a 54-acre development on the Center Street campus composed of several athletic fields, including competition fields for the baseball, softball and soccer teams.

The regents' 1 p.m. meeting will be held at Varner Hall, located at 3835 Holdrege St. in Lincoln. Streaming audio from the meeting will also be available online at nebraska.edu.

TAYLOR MULLER
EDITOR IN CHIEF

On the morning of Nov. 4 in Africa, Nicodemus Ondego was finishing paperwork so he could study in the United States.

It was that morning in Kenya, due to the time difference, that it was projected by CNN that Barack Obama had obtained the 270 necessary electoral votes to become the 44th president of the United States.

When he saw the news, Ondego was in the American embassy finalizing his application for a student visa.

A keen follower of the primaries and election process, Ondego knew that the first black president of the U.S. and he had a common bond in Kenya. They are both of the Luo ethnic group.

Both Ondego and Obama have ancestors that hail from the same area of Kenya, the city of Kisumu (Siaya).

Ondego explained the "O" prefix in both their surnames is because of this connection and that they both belong to the same clan. It is through Obama's father, then, that Ondego is connected to the man running the United States.

A little over two weeks ago, Ondego stepped off of an airplane here in Omaha to study at UNO. Currently a freshman Management Information Systems major, this is his first semester at UNO.

To Ondego, the election of Obama has been an example of democracy in action. He had followed the election since the primaries in 2007.

"I was very keen on the election," Ondego said. "I watched Wolf Blitzer for most of the election

coverage, staying up until 1 [a.m.] to watch many times."

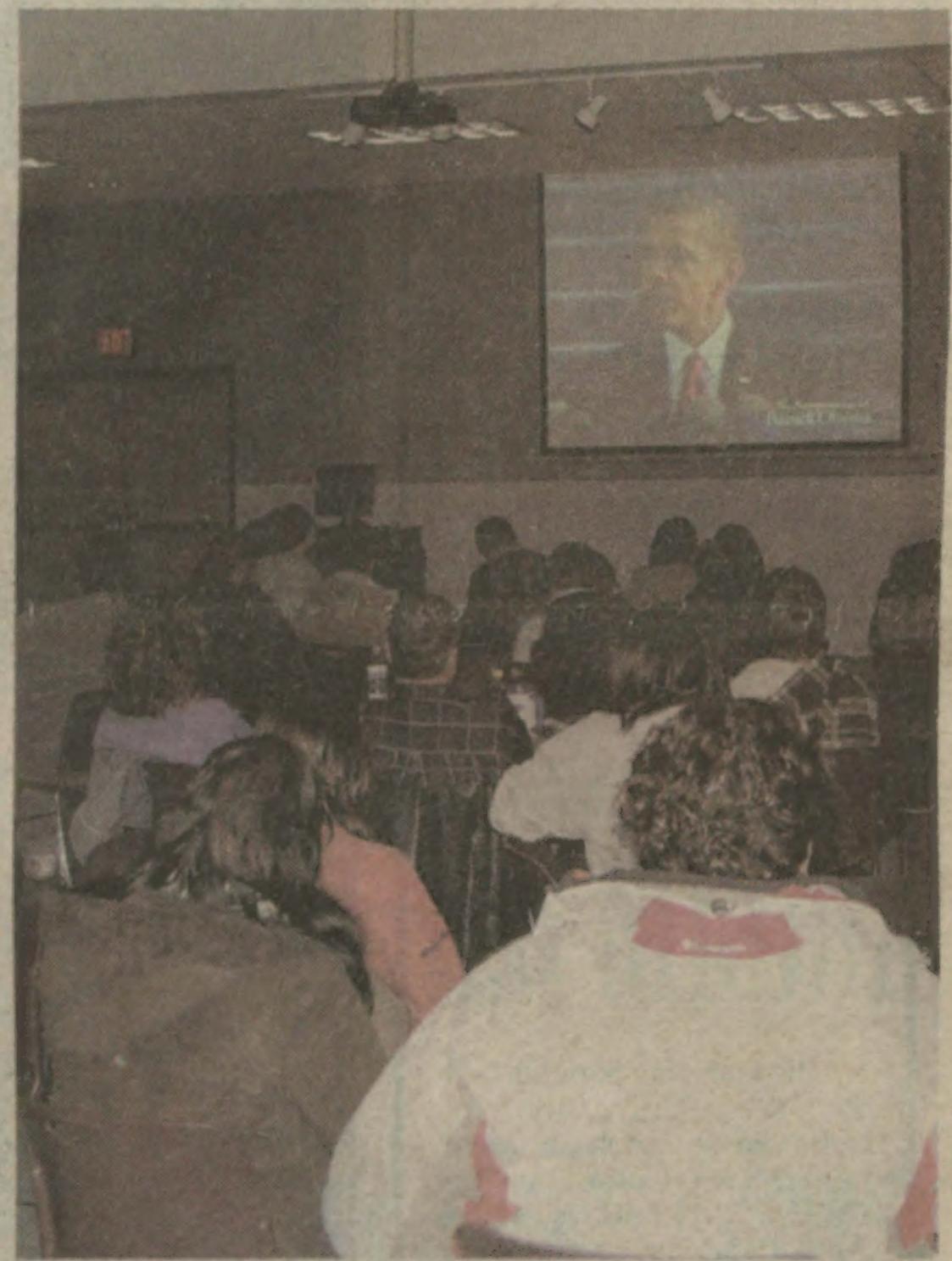
On inauguration day, Ondego's path crossed again with the president. Arriving on campus to finish his enrollment, he was just in time to watch the swearing-in with other international students.

"It was a great day for democracy, for black people, for the world," Ondego said. "We got to see democracy can really prevail."

While still adjusting to a new home and school, differences in day-to-day life are commonplace for Ondego. For example, the news he stayed up late to watch in Kenya is "everywhere here," he said.

Ondego intends to return to Kenya

SEE INAUGURATION: PAGE 7



Students gathered in the Milo Bail Student Center Nebraska Room and other locations across campus on Tuesday to watch Obama's oath of office and inauguration speech. (MIKE BELL/THE GATEWAY)

HAL DAUB VISITS UNO



Former Omaha mayor, and current mayoral candidate, Hal Daub introduces himself to members of UNO College Republicans at their first meeting of the spring semester in the Umonhon Room of the Milo Bail Student Center. Daub, who also served in Congress in the '80s, is running against councilmen Jim Suttle and Jim Vokal as well as Steve Scarle and Jerry Odom. The primary for the mayoral and city council races is April 7, and the general election is May 12. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

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STUDENTS CELEBRATE KING'S LEGACY THROUGH SERVICE-LEARNING PROJECT

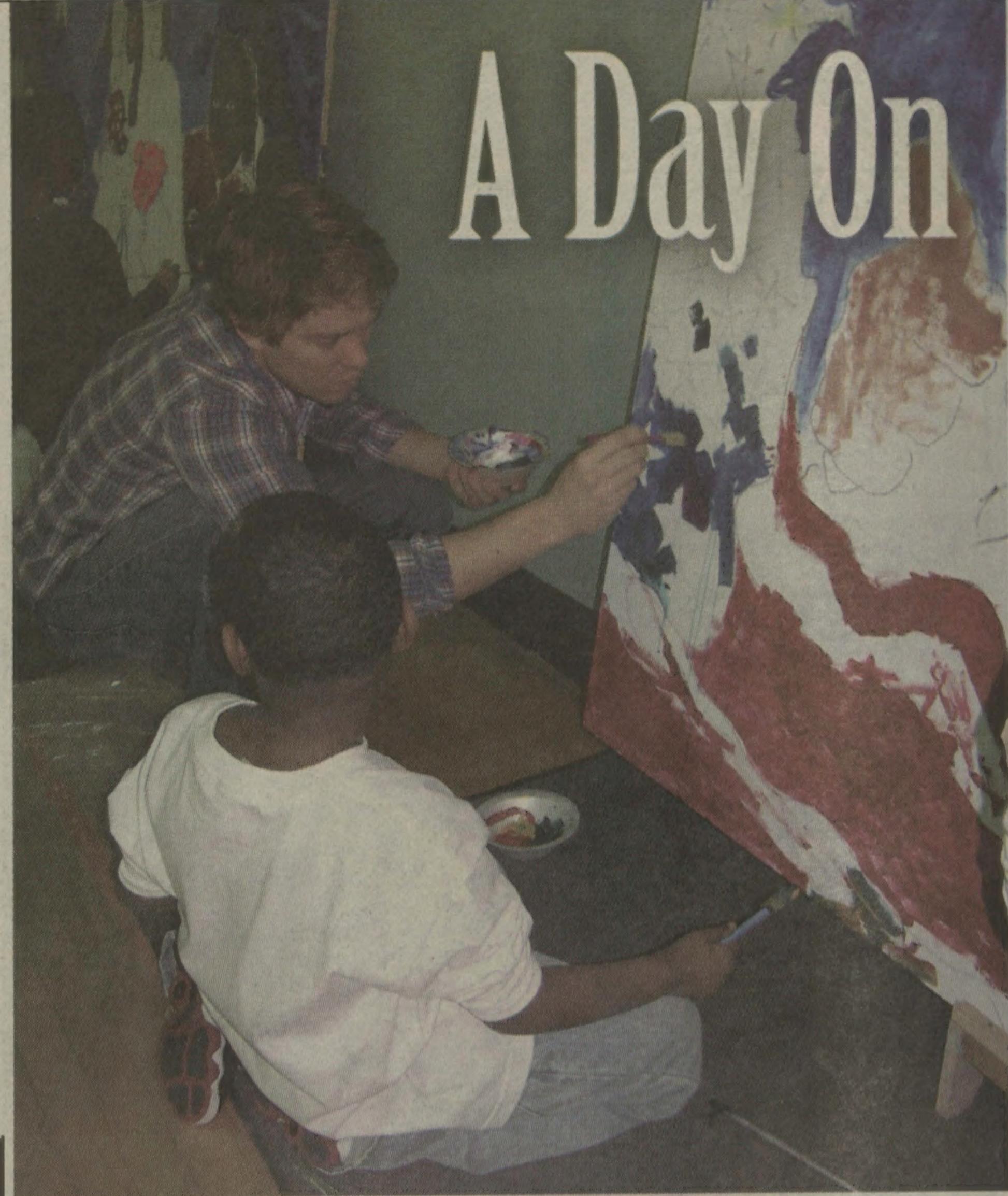
Top Left: Volunteer Kathryn Armstrong helps a child draw a picture of a story related to Martin Luther King Jr. at Turning Point, 3223 N. 45th St. More than a hundred volunteers, including 50 to 75 from UNO, gave their time on Jan. 19 to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day as a "day on" not a "day off." (JODI PENN/THE GATEWAY)

Bottom Left: From left to right, information assurance freshman Leo Medina, accounting freshman Bridget Braman, studio art senior Katie Veys and elementary education senior Lindsey Von Dohran encourage children to create self-portraits using items like yarn, construction paper and egg cartons. (JODI PENN/THE GATEWAY)

Top Right: Greg Groggel helps paint a mural pre-drawn by local artist Brett Henderson at Turning Point on Jan. 19 as part of the UNO Service Learning Academy's Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service project. (JODI PENN/THE GATEWAY)

Bottom Right: Amy Weiczkorek, a junior community health education major, and Kevin McElroy, a junior biotechnology major, help children create "I have a dream" mobiles at the Omaha Children's Museum, 500 S. 20th St., on Jan. 19 as part of the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service project. (JODI PENN/THE GATEWAY)

For more photos, visit The Gateway's Web site at www.unogateway.com



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CRIME LOG

COMPILED BY
SCOTT STEWART
INTERIM NEWS EDITOR

Sunday, Jan. 18

4:05 p.m. Campus Security witnessed the illegal dumping of trash at the University of Nebraska Foundation property on Castelar Street. Omaha police were requested. The suspect's vehicle was identified, and a physical description of the suspect was obtained before the suspect in the vehicle fled the property.

4:32 a.m. While on patrol, Campus Security officers witnessed an alcohol violation in Lot 12. Further investigation disclosed alcohol violations at Scott Village. Two students were referred for disciplinary action.

Monday, Jan. 19

8:52 p.m. Campus Security responded to the report of a controlled substance violation at University Village. Omaha police responded. No violation was discovered. A visitor was discovered to have an outstanding warrant. The suspect was arrested and transported to jail.

SPORTS

MARCUS HANSEN | SPORTS EDITOR

PAGE 3

SPORTS@UNOGATEWAY.COM | JANUARY 23, 2009

Low scores, driving ambitions for women's golf team

JESSE D KUHNLE
CONTRIBUTOR

With three consecutive first-place finishes to close out the fall season, the UNO Women's Golf team just needs to "keep doing what we've been doing" for continued success in the spring, Head Coach Tim Nelson said.

The team won the Wayne State Fall College Invitational, the Northwest Missouri State Fall Classic and the Nebraska Wesleyan Fall Invite before breaking for the winter. After ending the fall season so successfully, the team is set for the future.

"[The players are] real excited about getting going," Nelson said. "We'll take a step back, simply because of not playing during the winter months."

The golf team is comprised of juniors Erin Ommen and Abbey Weddle, sophomores Amy Powell and Dani Supouchick and freshman Rebecca Pollock.

Ommen led the team with a 76.5 stroke average and placed first at four of the six fall meets. Ommen also set a UNO record with a 68 stroke-four under par at the Northwest Missouri State Fall Classic.

"It almost didn't seem real that I shot that score," Ommen said. "Even now I can't comprehend shooting four under, but it feels



ABBEY WEDDLE



ERIN OMEN

very good."

Along with working on strength and conditioning in the off season, Nelson uses goal-oriented practice methods as a way for the Mavericks to improve their play. Such practice methods include making 10 putts in a row and hitting the green 10 times from certain distances. Nelson could specify no major shortfalls in his team, just smaller points that are "in need of fine tuning."

"I can't stress enough how dedicated to improving these kids are," Nelson said.

"Everything we have asked them to do, they have done, and done it with some enthusiasm."

Nelson said the dedication didn't end on the links. The team carries an average GPA of 3.5, also.

"It's a group that really wants to be successful in all they do," Nelson said.

The Mavericks face some obstacles in its first season in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association. Women's golf contains four regions. Much of

their competition is from warmer areas, allowing the teams to play golf all year round. Weather permitting, the Mavs will have to wait until the end of March before being able to golf outside.

In spite of this, the team is working hard and excited to see how the spring season plays out.

"I am definitely going to keep practicing and working as hard as I did last season," Ommen said. "Hopefully, my team and I have another great season."

In meets, all five golfers play and the top four scores count towards the team score. In the fall season, all five golfers finished in the top four at least once.

"I wish I could bottle what these kids have and sell it because I could make a fortune with what these kids have," Nelson said.

Another reason for the team's success is camaraderie. Nelson referred to his team as a family - each player is an individual, but they come together to support each other.

"Our team chemistry is very solid," Ommen said. "We all support each other in whatever we do. Be it golf, lifting, conditioning or school. We all want the best for each other and we all have a special bond."

The Mavs open the spring season on March 22 at the Wayne State Invitational.

Mavs look to hang-on in CCHA standings this weekend against Miami

SCOTT STEWART
INTERIM NEWS EDITOR

With the Mavericks still striving to finish in the top four in the Central Collegiate Hockey Association, this weekend's home series against No. 10 Miami (Ohio) bodes to be a serious challenge.

The RedHawks (13-8-3, 11-5-2-1) are tied for second in the CCHA along with Alaska, with both teams having 25 conference points. UNO (13-8-4, 8-6-4-

2) is tied with Ohio State for fourth place with 22 points, although the Buckeyes have played two fewer games than the Mavs.

The Mavs fell off national polls this week, having been ranked 20th in the USCHO.com/CBS College Sports Division I Men's Poll last week.

UNO, however, did receive votes in both the USCHO and USA Today/USA Hockey polls. The RedHawks came in 10th in both rankings, as well as 11th in the Inside College Hockey Power Rankings.

After this weekend, the Mavs have four conference series remaining on their schedule, going on the road against Ferris State and Michigan, taking on Western Michigan and CCHA leader Notre Dame.

A fourth-place or better finish in the CCHA would all but guarantee the Mavs a berth in the NCAA national tournament. It would also meet the expectation articulated by Chancellor John Christensen in an interview with Tom Shatel of the Omaha World-Herald last October.

Statistically, the outlook is grim this weekend for the Mavs. UNO's last win over Miami was on Jan. 21, 2005, and the Mavs have dropped nine straight since then.

Worse, the RedHawks hold a commanding 6-4-0 record on the road against UNO, with the Mavs not overcoming the RedHawks in Omaha since Oct. 18, 2002 - meaning the Mavs have not beaten Miami since moving to the Qwest Center. Last season, the RedHawks swept four games, outscoring them 22-8, winning each contest by at least a three-point margin.



Referee Keith Sergott breaks up a scuffle between Miami's Justin Vaive and UNO's Nick Fanto during last season's matchup at the Qwest Center. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

Miami also is unbeaten when netting the first goal, with a record of 12-0-1 so far on the season, while the Mavs have allowed their opponents to draw first blood 15 times so far this season. Under coach Enrico Blasi, the RedHawks hold a 146-43-17 advantage when getting on the board first.

The RedHawks also boast two of the CCHA's leading point scorers, sophomore forwards Carter Camper and Pat Cannone. Camper is tied for second in the CCHA with 1.24 points per game, while Cannone is tied for fourth with 1.11 points per game.

On the positive side, Maverick junior defenseman Eddie DelGrosso leads CCHA

defensemen in scoring, averaging 1.06 points per game to be the seventh overall leading point scorer in the conference.

Miami is also the most penalized team in the CCHA so far this season, earning an average of 20.8 penalty minutes per game, compared to UNO's 13.0 minutes. On the other hand, the RedHawks also lead the CCHA in penalty kill, with a 92.2 percent success rate.

The puck drops at 7:05 p.m. both nights. Both games will also be televised on CBS College Sports, streamed online at omavs.com and broadcast on 1290 AM KKAR radio in Omaha.



Eddie DelGrosso sends a RedHawk to the ice during last season's matchup at the Qwest Center. (MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

Mavericks earn double honors for conference athletes of the week

SEAN OWENS
STAFF WRITER

UNO's ability to produce talent proved strong again as two Maverick athletes were honored as conference athletes of the week.

The Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association, MIAA, announced winners of both basketball and track earlier this week.

Seniors Michael Jenkins and Pinar Saka were named players of the week in the Mid-American Intercollegiate Athletics Association, in basketball and track.

Senior guard Michael Jenkins made his name heard loud and clear last week in a pair of key home-court MIAA victories.

The Bellevue West High School native averaged 26.5 points per game, 3.5 rebounds and 2 steals in the victories, earning Jenkins another award in the books and another win for the Mavericks.

The victory against then fifth-ranked Southwest Baptist on Jan. 14 ended at 88-84. Jenkins scored the final five Maverick points to strip the lead from the Bearcats.

The 6-foot, 185-pound senior also made a mark in the Jan. 17 victory against then No. 13 Missouri Southern. Jenkins took the game into his own hands going 14-15 from the foul line, accumulation 27 points in the 74-64 victory.

On the track side, Saka, who is running in her final season, ran a DII National qualifying 53.36 seconds vin the 400 meter

at the Holiday Inn Invitational on January 17. She stomped her previous school record of 53.61 made last year.

This 5-foot-5 sprinter from Istanbul, Turkey has been here before, posting several North Central Conference player-of-the-week honors last year in the conference's final season. Saka, a 200- and 400-meter sprinter held pace last season with junior sprinter Molly Bellings and was an All-America sprinter in the D-II Nationals last season.

The track team will head south on Jan. 23 as they will compete in the Razorback Invitational hosted by the University of Arkansas. The Maverick basketball team will continue their season on Jan. 24 at home against Washburn University.



Senior guard Michael Jenkins (above) and Pinar Saka (left) picked up Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association athletes of the week in their respective sports. (PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BISHOP/THE GATEWAY)

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New sport, new conference Track stars shine at invitational

MITCH WECKER
STAFF WRITER

Last year, UNO left the rapidly depleting North Central Conference and joined the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.

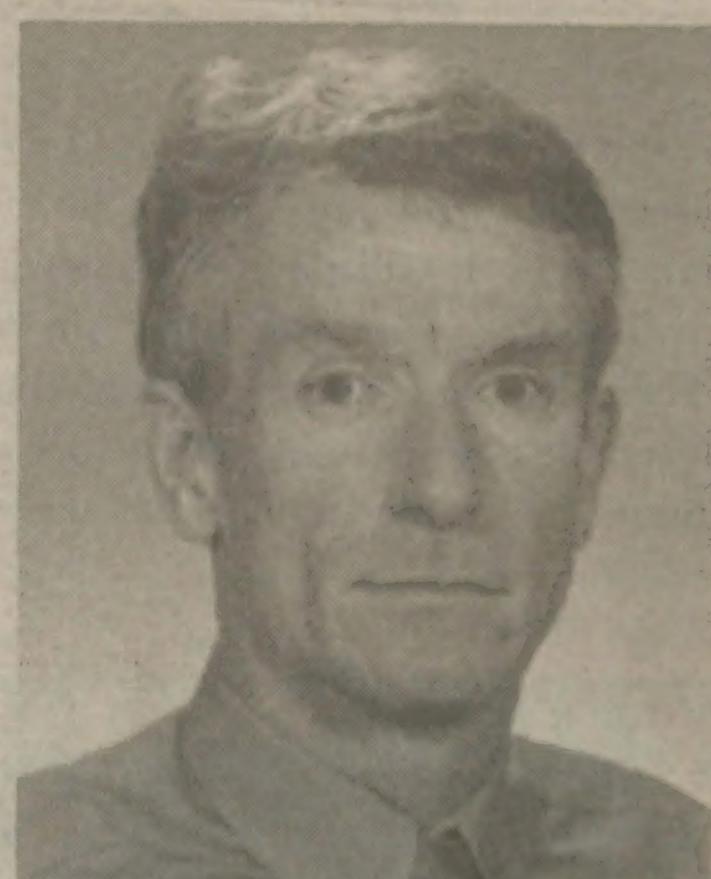
This move required that UNO add another men's sport with the university opting for men's tennis.

The tennis coaching staff is not only working to get the fledgling sport up and running, it is also looking to create a solid competitor in the process.

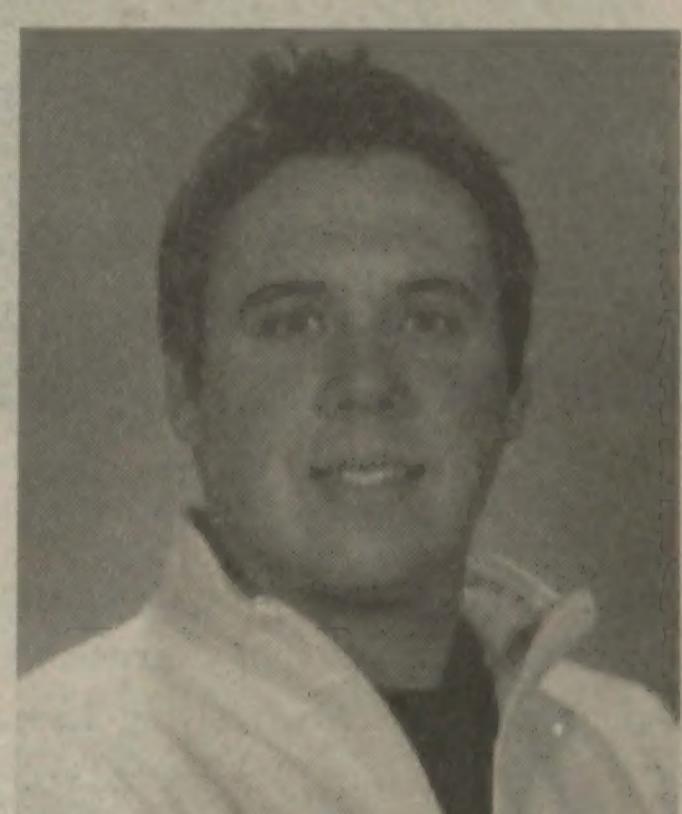
"This conference play will be extremely rough," said Head Coach Bill Nichols. "There are some former national championship teams on our conference play, with a look at Northwest Missouri State, who have been power houses in men's tennis for a very long time."

Assistant Coach Mike Saniuk said his two co-captains, Chase Petersen and Matt Nohl, are a great foundation for a strong team.

"With all the guys on the team, they couldn't choose one or the other, so we went with both [Peterson and Nohl], bringing different aspects to the team," Saniuk said. "With their All-Conference honors last season,



BILL NICHOLS



MIKE SANUIK

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Hey Bullpen members, we're doing it again! Metro Credit Union and the Bullpen are giving away a **\$500 UNO scholarship** at the Mav hockey game on **Saturday,**

January 24th! All you have to do is show up wearing your Bullpen shirt, sign-in and you'll be eligible to win. Not a Bullpen member? No problem, we'll have a Bullpen sign-up table located behind the student section (113). Sign-up before the start of the 2nd period and you'll be entered to win the scholarship we'll be giving away that night!

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www.unobullpen.com

MICHELLE BISHOP
PHOTO EDITOR

leadership not so much vocal, but by leading by example, we see confidence coming out of these gentlemen to help with our team through tough conference play."

Coach Saniuk also commented on senior Marcus Hansen, a senior transfer from UNL. Hansen is also the sports editor of The Gateway.

"Marcus is one of the only players to have experience in tennis, playing at another university, who can also bring knowledge with the experience he has gained over the past few years," Saniuk said.

"These qualities can be big assets, whereas our other players have not played college ball before. That is something you cannot teach, you just have to be there to experience college tennis."

The first event for the men will be against one of the best teams in the nation, with Nebraska Wesleyan University heading to Omaha's Hanscom Park tennis facility on Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Nebraska Wesleyan's varsity players all received

The UNO indoor track and field team put together a strong showing last weekend at the Holiday Inn Invitational in Lincoln.

Highlighting the invitational was senior Pinar Saka's performance in the 400-meter dash. Saka's time of 53.36 seconds broke her own school record (53.61) and qualified the native of Istanbul, Turkey, for the indoor national meet.

The Mavs dominated the 400-meter dash by claiming three of the top four spots. Sophomore Anja Puc, an automatic qualifier for the indoor national meet, finished second with a time of 55.39, while sophomore Kayla Koepke finished fourth with a time of 57.83.

Saka and Puc are ranked first and second, respectively, in the nation at 400-meters.

Freshman Maja Mihalinec picked up two second place finishes at the invite. Her time of 7.67 was good for a second place finish in the 60-meter dash. The native of Mozirje, Slovenia, finished just .01 second



CHLESEA HAYES



NYOKA GILES

behind winner Chelsea Hayes of Butler Community College.

In the 200-meter dash, Mihalinec's time of 24.938 was just .005 behind first place finisher Nyoka Giles of Minnesota. Mihalinec is now a provisional qualifier for the national meet.

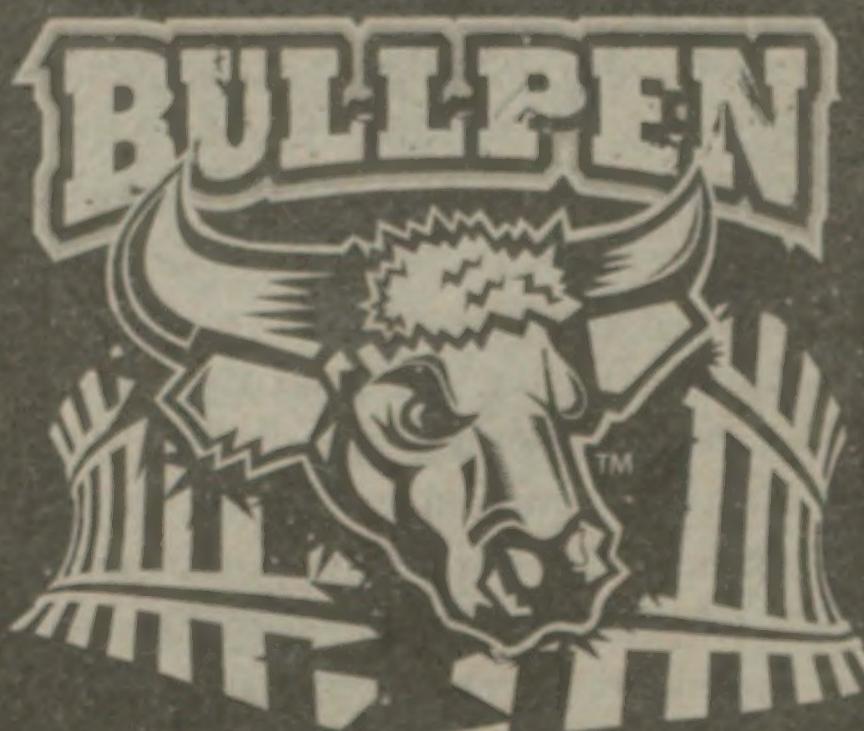
In other events, freshman Lauren Kundert finished 12th in the 60-meter hurdles with a time of 9.44. In the 600-yard run, sophomore Joeline Smith finished 14th and junior Lisa Tesarek was 16th.

In the field events, sophomore Rasheema Pitt grabbed fifth place with a jump of 36.48 feet in the triple jump.

In the shot put, junior Heather Minssen finished eighth with a throw of 12.92 meters, while sophomore Madison Haugland was 14th at 11.73 meters.

Today, the Mavs make a trip south to compete in the two-day Razorback Invite hosted by the University of Arkansas.

University of Nebraska Omaha



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The new 'emotional baggage'

COMMENTARY BY
JARED SPENCE
CONTRIBUTOR

This season is all about bags; bags that pop and bags that serve as a way to add visual interest and detail to the majority of rather toned-down looks being sent down the runways.

However, not all of us students demand more from a bag than solely style. The hectic collegelifestyle requires one to be well-prepared for a number of various situations and responsibilities. Though contrary to popular belief, one does not have to sacrifice style for functionality. The key to finding the perfect bag is finding one that encompasses all of your needs, whether you're male or female.

For most, your bag is more than just a bag - it holds your life. You take your bag everywhere you go - work, school, the gym, interviews, lunch and on trips. A bag can be a means of holding this busy lifestyle together, toting around all your day-to-day needs from laptops to papers, books, and whatever other personal items you may carry when you are on the go.

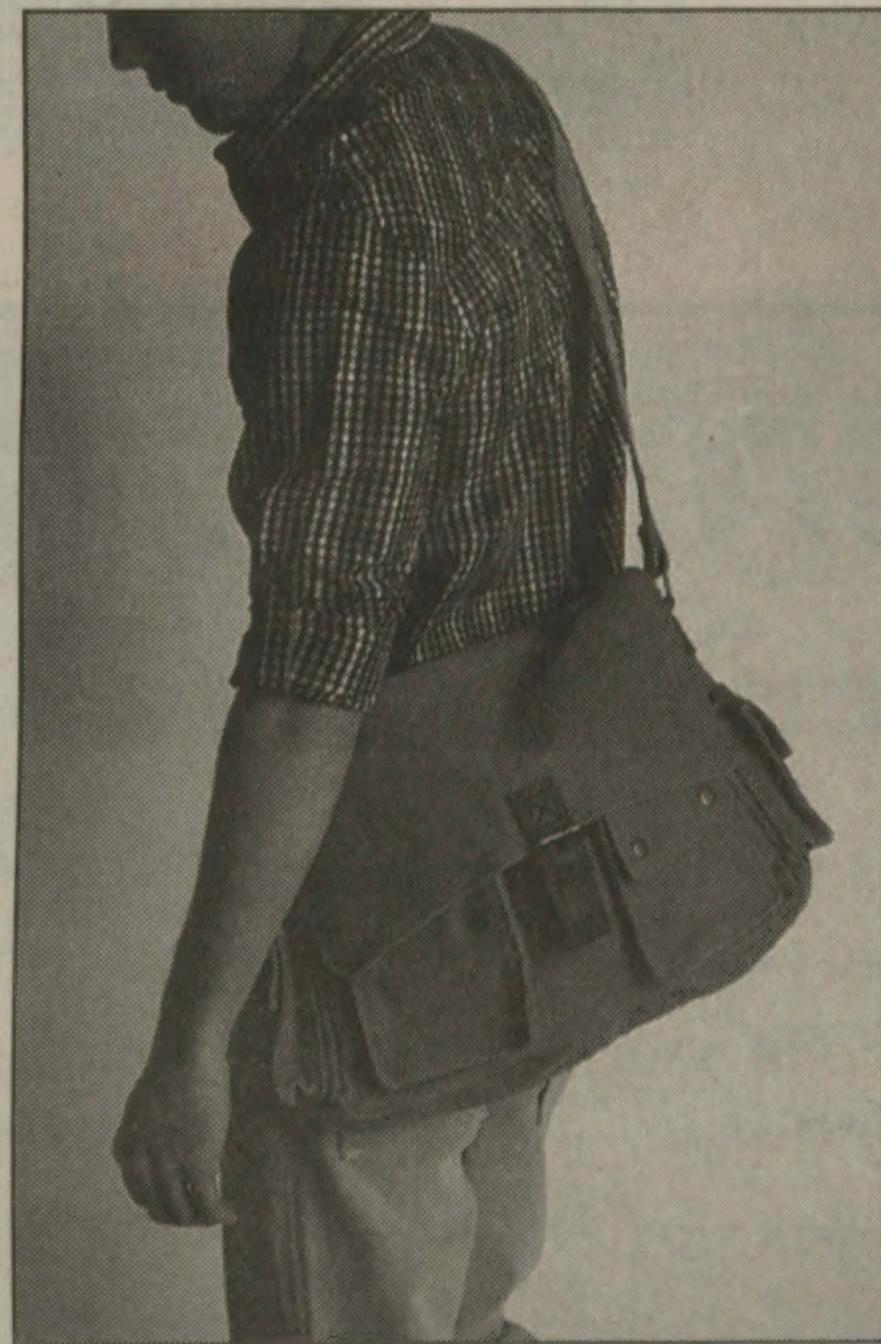
"All of my bags are messenger bags," said UNO senior Jesse Cozad. "I have so much crap that I have to carry around all the time that I have to have a bag to carry it in."

Cozadsaidhe likes the convenience of being able to throw his bag across his shoulder and have everything at his fingertips. In his case, a messenger bag is a great option. They can easily transition from a casual to a more professional setting, as well. But, when wearing a messenger bag to a more formal setting like an interview or a job, choose one that can be worn on one shoulder as opposed to slung across the body. Urban Outfitters'

Canvas Leather Messenger is perfect and it's a steal at \$29.99. It has a rugged appeal that can still be dressed up, which is perfect for men.

For those who have to carry their whole life around, there is an answer to their prayers in the carryall bag. These bags, sometimes dubbed as "weekenders" or "hold-alls," offer plenty of space. It's simple and sophisticated design makes it perfect for day-to-day use and every occasion in between.

Junior Cathy Enoviso said she used to like really big bags like the carryall,

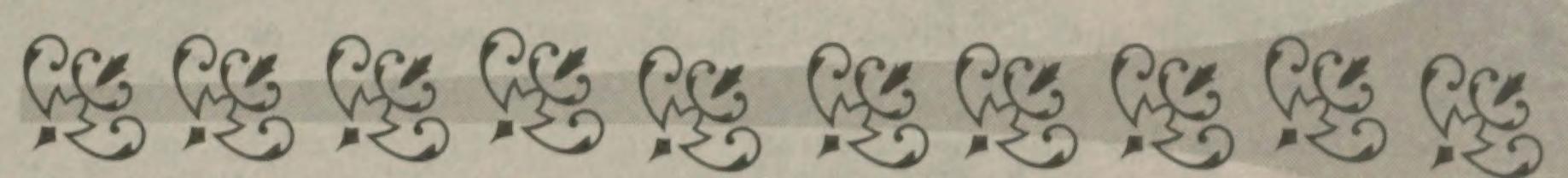


COURTESY URBAN OUTFITTERS

but they threw off her equilibrium and began to hurt her back and shoulders.

"I look for a bag that can stand up by itself with structure," Enoviso said. "I also look for inside and outside pockets and extra compartments, so I don't lose all of my stuff."

People who want a lot of space like the carryall with the



convenience of being able to wear it on their shoulder can opt for a large tote bag. Rootote makes a medium tote bag that allows you to hold it by hand or throw it on your shoulder. For only \$28, this simple tote bag is versatile and adaptable to different settings.

A bag is an investment piece. You can spend a little more because it will pay for itself with the amount of use you'll get out of it. Investing in a quality, durable bag will prevent you from having to waste money on replacing it in the near future.

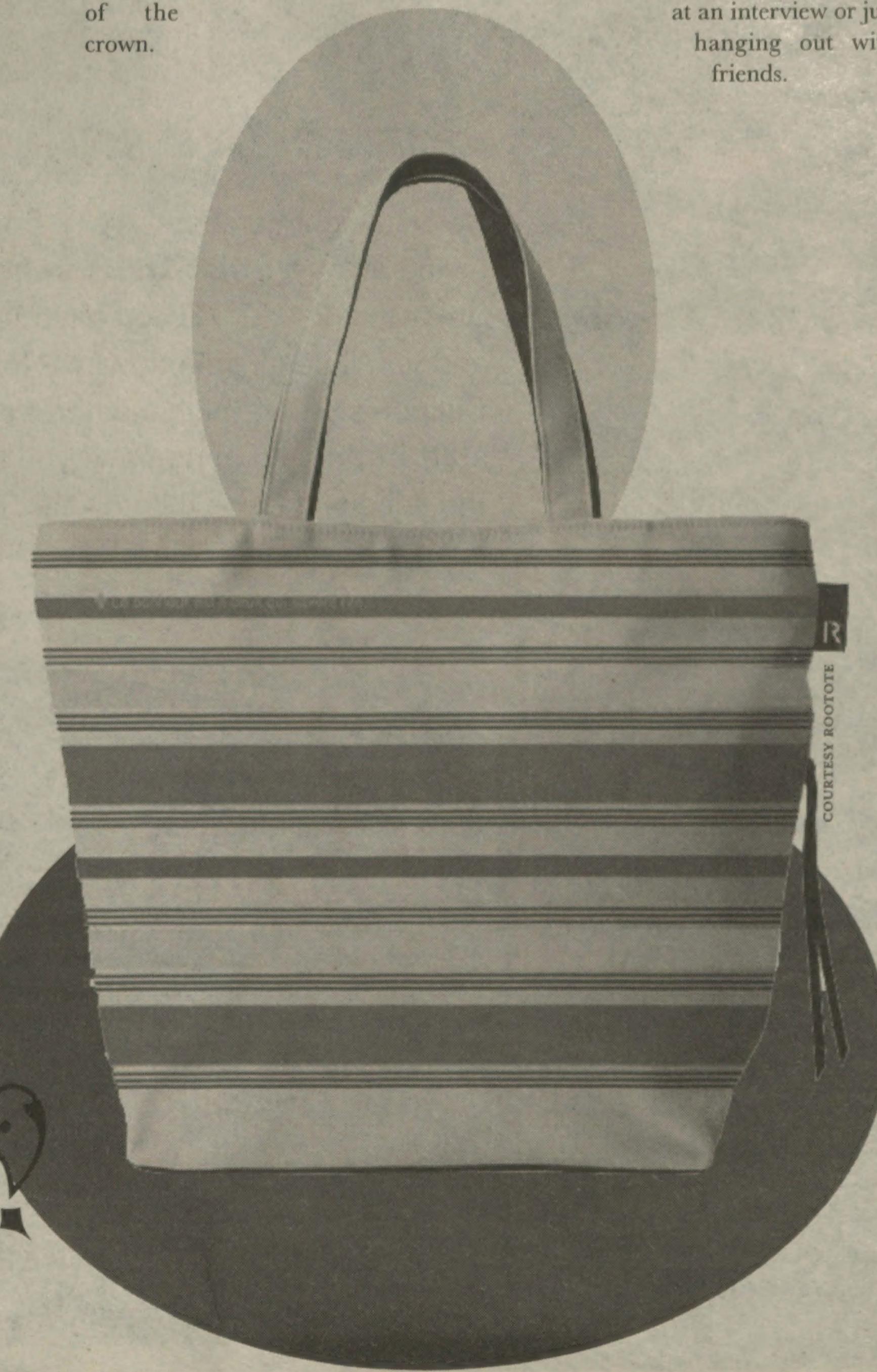


COURTESY ROOTOTE

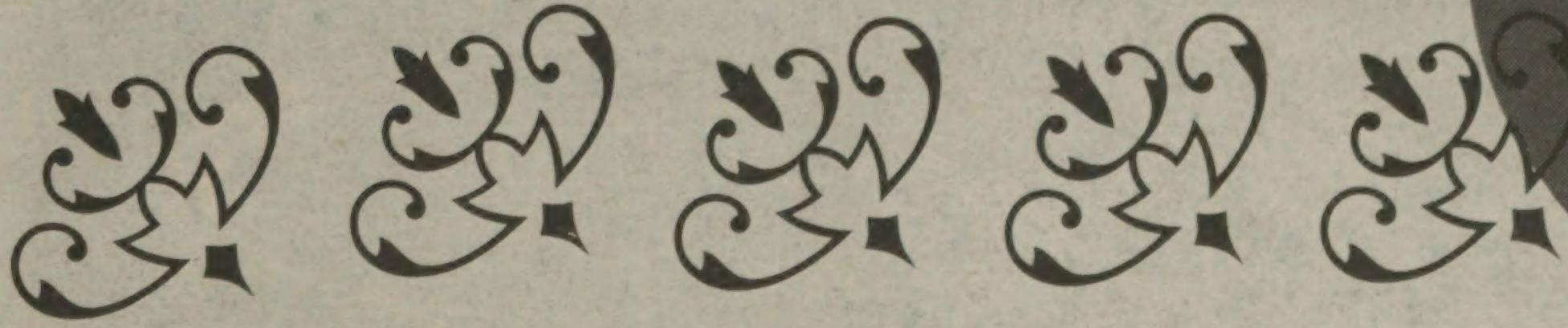
As a college student entering the professional world, though, your bag should say you are both sophisticated and stylish. There is nothing worse than seeing someone all dressed up for an interview or meeting and completely ruin it with a Nike drawstring bag hugging their back. The way you put yourself together should show people that you take pride in how you present yourself, and your bag is the tip of the crown.

Keeping that in mind, reasonably priced bags are easy to find, too. My favorite bag haven, of course, is Urban Outfitters. You can often find a great assortment of generously marked down bags in-store and online.

Whether it's a splurge or a bargain, a great bag will serve you well. A stylish bag hanging from your grasp will surely make people stop and check you out, too. It's always nice to turn a few heads when walking around campus, at an interview or just hanging out with friends.



COURTESY ROOTOTE



Surprisingly, 'American Idol' unironic inspiration in U.S.

ANNIE YUAN
DAILY TROJAN, USC

Every year on a cold January evening, millions of Americans gather in front of their television sets for one purpose: to join Simon, Randy, Paula and Ryan as they launch their annual search for the next "American Idol."

Over the past seven years, the "American Idol" freight train has quickly gained momentum and passengers. Flattening events such as the Grammys and the Golden Globes in ratings as it speeds by, the popular reality TV singing competition, which kicked off its eighth season Tuesday night with a titillating episode of Arizona auditions, hasn't shown signs of slowing down yet.

Critics have attempted to delve into the mystery. Marsha Sutton of "Voices of San Diego" was less than impressed when she watched the show for the first time. "[It is] this black hole of television entertainment that sucks you in and spits you out after it's over," she said. "What's the fanatical

attraction?"

In other words, why should we care if so-and-so hit the high note in "All By Myself" when we have more serious things to worry about?

Many believe "Idol's" only redeeming factor is its hilariously atrocious auditions. Since the invention of reality TV, American society has unabashedly taken pleasure in other people's humiliation. That precedent holds strong in tough economic times such as these; after all, nothing makes a dire situation seem less dire than watching Simon obliterate a teenage girl's dreams and self-confidence with a scathing comment — or five.

Bad singing and drama, however, can only carry an audience so far, as performances take over once the auditions end. Past seasons have shown that ratings consistently increase as the top 12 is whittled down and the mood of the show sobered.

The producers demonstrated a surprisingly acute awareness of this fact with the changes they implemented this season, which included hiring Kara DioGuardi

to (hopefully) counter Paula's insanity, bringing back the fan-favorite wildcard round, and eliminating the money-making but insipid Idol Gives Back.

In short, they did what college football fans wish the NCAA would do and replaced a flawed, greedy system with one that works.

But the recent remedies don't explain why "Idol's" ratings weren't seriously affected, even at its lowest, most corrupt point. It's absurd that any series in its eighth season should draw in an audience of 30 million, in an age when the combined impact of the digital world and a faltering economy have heavily dented most network ratings.

The answer might lie in the only aspect of "Idol" that remains to be analyzed: its name.

"American Idol" stole its premise from "Pop Idol," a similar singing competition that began in Britain. While "Pop Idol" quickly petered out, the American version became successful almost instantly. It wasn't the premise; that stayed the same. It wasn't

even Simon; he crossed the pond with the show.

It had to be the location.

We've heard it a million times: America is a land of opportunity and possibility, even during a severe economic recession. From the moment the pilgrims set foot on this land, Americans have always dreamed big and worked hard — economy be damned.

The same perseverance that fostered our country's growth also made Fantasia Barrino, an illiterate single mother, a four-time Grammy nominee. It drove overweight second season contestant Ruben Studdard to compete for and ultimately win the hearts of millions of fans in an industry where being thin is more important than being talented. And none of it would have been possible if it weren't for "Idol."

There is nothing more fulfilling than playing a role in the transformation of a nobody into a superstar. Bad auditions just prove how real the show's contestants are. Unlike Ryan Seacrest, their lines are unscripted, their performances are un-edited and, most of all, they're imperfect.

No matter what the cynics insist, "Idol" contestants aren't just pretty people with pipes utilized by the show to make money. They may be household names, but they're just as flawed as the rest of us.

Sure, "Idol" abuses cheap gags to get laughs out of the audience. But just a small dash of reality, such as the one we received when legally blind pianist Scott MacIntyre soared through to Hollywood with a touching rendition of "And So It Goes," is all it takes to foster an emotional connection between the audience and the show.

By allowing viewers to live out their dreams vicariously, "Idol" gives them hope. It's silly, and most people will never admit it, but maybe it's just what the country needs right now: a temporary escape from a bleak reality.

In her disdain for "Idol," Sutton asks us, "When you watch ['American Idol'], does it make you proud to be an American?"

I've never been a patriotic person. But looking at the double-platinum success of Carrie Underwood, who spent her days feeding goats on her family's farm before "Idol," I can answer the question with a good level of certainty:

Yes, it does.



COURTESY MCT

THEATRE COMPETITION SHOWS PROMISE

ANDREA BARBE
ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

One Midwest competition might prove successful for several UNO students and faculty this week.

The UNO Theatre Department sent 40 students, along with 7 faculty members, to Lawrence, Kan., to compete in the 41st annual Region 5 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. The university's fall production of "Women of Troy" will be one of five productions performed during the festival's run.

Maire Creegan directed the play last November as part of her graduate thesis work. The five plays were chosen from a seven-state region that includes North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa and Kansas.

In addition to the performance of "Women of Troy," nine UNO theatre students will take part in the Design and Technology Exhibition and 10 students were selected to

perform in the Irene Ryan Acting Competition for scholarships.

The week-long event will run through Jan. 23, and if "Women of Troy" is chosen, students and faculty would present their show in the national competition in Washington D.C.

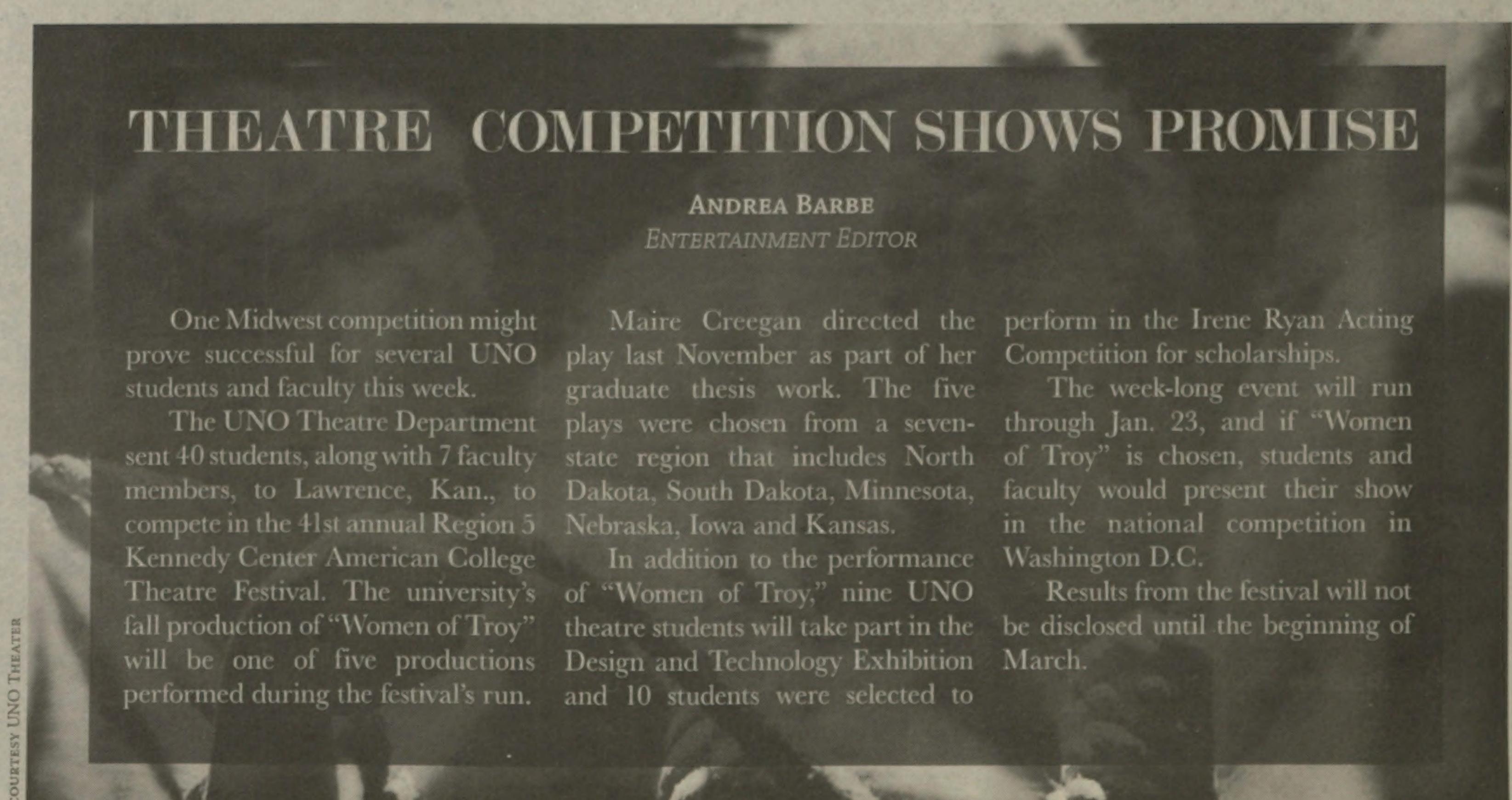
Results from the festival will not be disclosed until the beginning of March.

FROM
INAUGURATION:
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once he has his degree, to begin making a better life for himself and those around him.

What is important is not the degree or the journey, Ondego said, but it is what one does with the opportunity, a lesson that also applies to Obama.

"He is a fighter for the common man, does not matter what race," Ondego said. "What will matter most is what he does from now on."



COURTESY UNO THEATER

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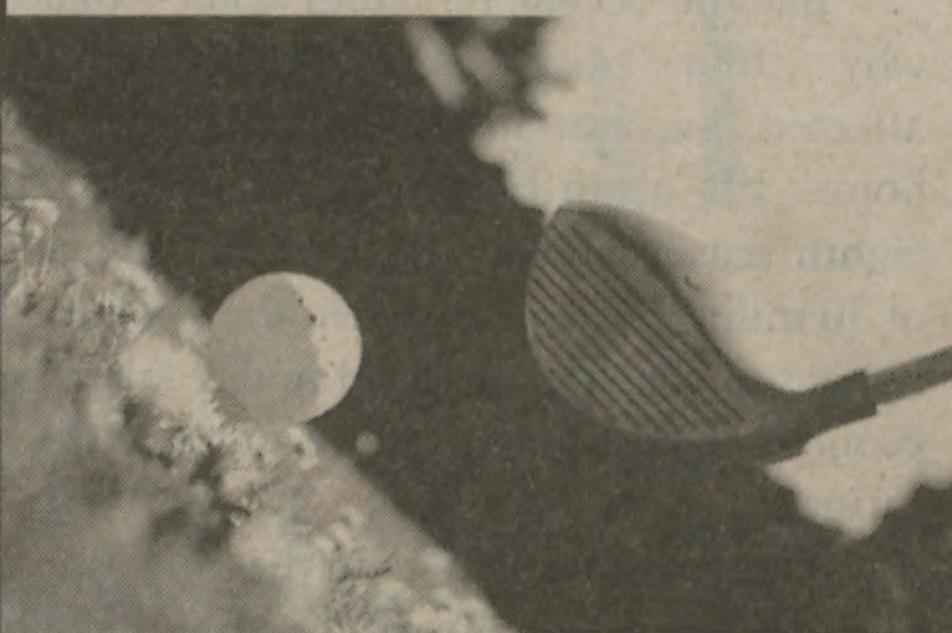
SPRING 09':
January 12th-April 30th
No class: January 19th and March 16th-20th

Times:
Monday & Wednesday: 5:30pm- 6:30pm
Tuesday-Thursday: 7:00pm- 7:45pm

FREE UNO Activity Cardholders
General Public: \$60

Youth Golf Lessons

Spring 2009



Instructor:
Coach Tim Nelson and
The UNO Women's golf Team

Where:
HPER 230

Dates:
Saturdays
February 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th

Times:
10:00am-11:00am

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Student Activity Cardholders
\$20 Per Child for Non-Activity Cardholders
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Outdoor Venture Center

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Spring 2009 Workshop



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Saturday, January 24th, 12:00pm-4:30pm.
Saturday, February 14th, 12:00pm-4:30pm.
(One Day Workshops)

Price:
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\$20 UNO
\$25 General Public
Late Fee: After Jan. 17th, Add \$5

Call 554-2997 if you have any questions about the class or what to wear.

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ocv.unomaha.edu
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Mav-Rec

Wellness Stampede

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6:30-9:00AM AND 11:00-1:00PM
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MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY:
4:00-9:00PM
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SUNDAYS:
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Breaking ground for new stadium



Left - Dignitaries, including Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey, third from right, participate in a ground breaking ceremony on Wednesday for a new baseball stadium in Omaha, Neb., that will replace Rosenblatt Stadium as the home of the College World Series.

Top - Baseball bat-shaped shovels were used to turn over a pile of dirt to formally break ground on the city's \$128 million baseball stadium near 13th and Webster Streets on Wednesday.

PHOTOS BY MICHELLE BISHOP

CLASSIFIED ADS

LOST & FOUND

FOR ITEMS LOST AT UNO
Contact Campus Security, EAB 100, 554-2648. Turned-in items can be claimed by a description and proper identification.

Advertising for items lost or found on the UNO campus will be published free in the Gateway for two weeks. Forms are available at the Office located in Milo Bail 1st Floor.

News Tip?

Call 554-2470

NOTICES

Advertising will be rejected that discriminates based on age, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, marital status or sexual orientation.

HELP WANTED

4-H Summer Camp Staff
Lead outdoor programming for kids ages 5-18 at residential summer camps near Gretna, Halsey, and Alma, Nebraska. Great Fun! Competitive Salary! All majors! Applications due February 13, 2009.
Visit 4h.unl.edu/camp/staff/

AmeriCorps volunteer for a nutrition-education program called Operation Frontline. Be apart of a national service organization and make a difference for low-income children and families in Omaha. No degree required, but interest or experience in nutrition and cooking is preferred. Must complete 1700 hrs within a one-year term. Living stipend provided and an education stipend of \$4,725 is awarded at the end of service. Please contact Katee Upton at kupton@thevnacares.org for more information or to apply.

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